

22nd
February,
1986

40p

England on
the Nile

MAGAZINE

CUP SPECIAL

REID JOINS OUR
ALL-STAR TEAM



Who's that
wearing
Kerry's shirt?



Luton's
high-
flyers

COLOUR
GROUP

Gordon Cowans'
amazing comeback

Australia — 80c; New Zealand — 80c;
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After two broken legs, Gordon Cowans zips back into World Cup contention

Gordon Cowans slipped quietly back into Bari, picked up his wife Jackie and purred gently down the Adriatic coast in his new Mercedes 190 to a local restaurant.

"It's great to be back," he sighed after demolishing a fresh lobster.

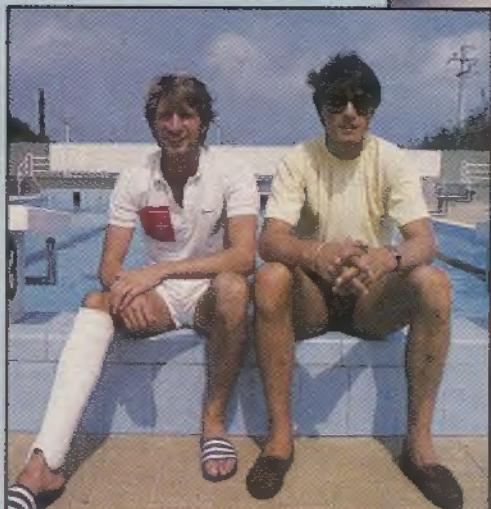
Twenty four hours earlier he had helped England demolish Egypt's defence in a World Cup warm-up friendly that re-established the former Aston Villa midfield general at international level.

His astonishing recovery from two broken legs to win his eighth cap was the same triumph of courage that Scottish fans enjoyed when Spurs iron-man Dave Mackay shrugged off similar setbacks 20 years ago.

Difficult

And Cowans' cracking goal from 20 yards to complete England's scoring in Cairo will make it difficult for manager Bobby Robson to ignore his talents when his more established players return for another friendly in Israel on February 26.

Cowans had reservations about his performance three years after his last appearance for England in



Relaxing with team-mate Paul Rideout after breaking his leg last season.

Australia.

"When you've recovered from the injuries I've had, it's a great thrill to play at any level."

"Bobby Robson never forgot me and that is the greatest boost my career has ever received."

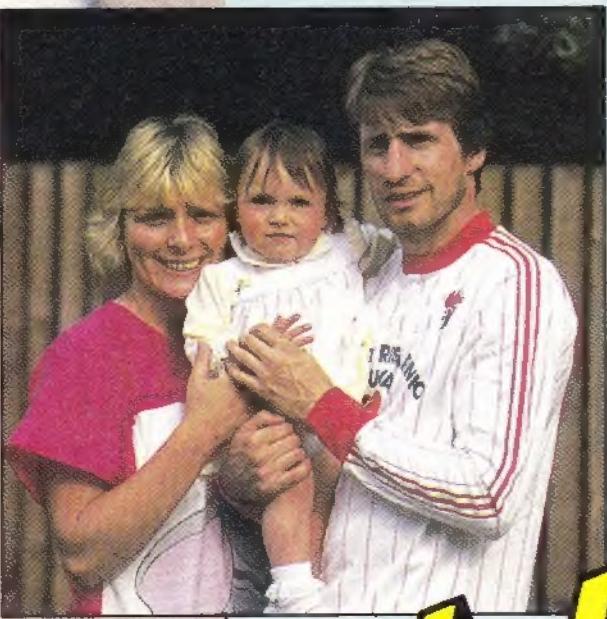
"When he phoned me in Italy to tell me I was on 'standby' because of selection problems, I couldn't believe my luck."

"I honestly believed I would never receive another chance to play for England — let alone come into consideration for the World Cup in Mexico."

"You have got to realise how low I had become. I spent the whole of last year getting over those two broken legs."

"I was happy to play at any





The family man, Gordon at home with wife Jackie and baby.

level. It has been a difficult time for me and for Bari, who are struggling third from bottom of the Italian League.

"We have spent most of the season defending, so to score a goal for England after hardly getting in a shot on target for Bari was a great experience."

Cowans' impressive contribution to England's 4-0 win in Egypt destroyed the belief back in England that the Durham-born star was finished at 27.

Many people thought he was lucky to make such a full recovery from a double fracture of his right leg when playing for Aston Villa in a pre-season friendly in Zaragoza in 1983.

That tragic accident cost him a

European Cup.

"It was great to play for England again. A lot of different faces, but Peter Shilton hasn't lost any of his genius."

"And it was great to see Kenny Sansom and Ray Wilkins again."

"I loved the England style. I got forward much more than I do for Bari and I thoroughly enjoyed every moment."

"I am under no illusions about the future. England's midfield is incredibly strong."

"While I've been away Trevor Steven, Paul Bracewell, Stewart Robson, Chris Waddle, and Ricky Hill have arrived firmly on the scene."

'Tiring'

"That game in Egypt took it out of me. We played in 80 degree heat and whereas I spend most of my time backing off, getting behind the ball for Bari, I found the extra work required in pressing forward for England a bit tiring."

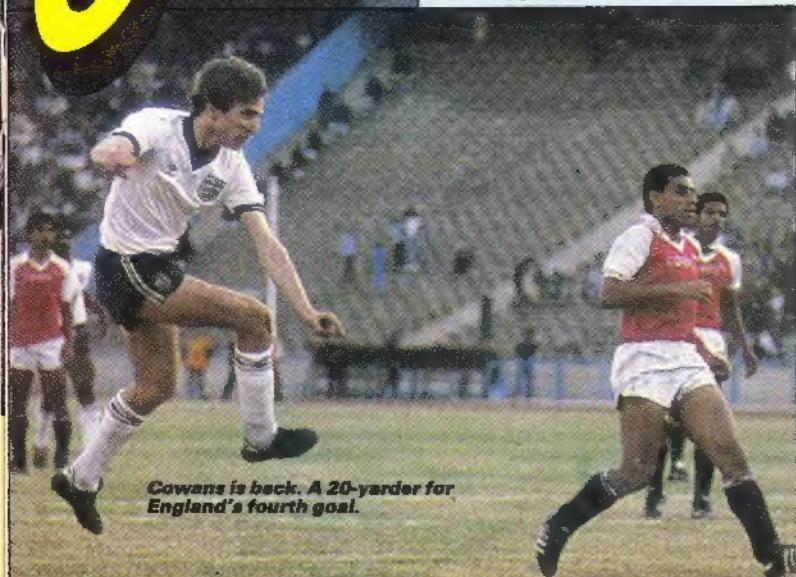
"But I'll get used to it if there's a genuine chance to becoming an England regular again."

Gordon Cowans appeared to have a glittering England career ahead of him when Robson awarded him his first cap against Wales in February, 1983.

England captain Bryan Robson described him as one of the most "complete" players in Britain.

His all-action midfield style, in which he knitted defence to attack and weighed in with the

Bobby never forgot me



Cowans is back. A 20-yarder for England's fourth goal.

full season and more or less destroyed his Villa career.

But Gordon's relentless pursuit of full fitness made a mockery of the critics' doom-laden forecasts and he went to Bari with Paul Rideout in a transfer deal that promised to lift his shattered career.

Gordon's luck ran out once more last August when he broke his right leg again in a Cup match.

It kept him out of football until October and even Bobby Robson was sceptical about his England chances this season.

"That second broken leg wasn't as bad as the first," explains Gordon.

"The Italian climate and my own determination to make something of this stage of my career has helped me recapture my form."

"I honestly believe I am playing as well today as I have done at any stage in my career, even in the year Aston Villa won the

occasional goal, such as his effort against Scotland at Wembley in England's 2-0 win in June, 1983, marked him down as a certainty for England's 1986 World Cup squad.

That dream fell apart but Bobby Robson's encouragement and sound support from his wife Jackie and his Bari team-mates could even yet see him in Mexico.

"I certainly won't feel out of place," says Gordon. "Bobby Robson has seen to that!"

England on the Nile

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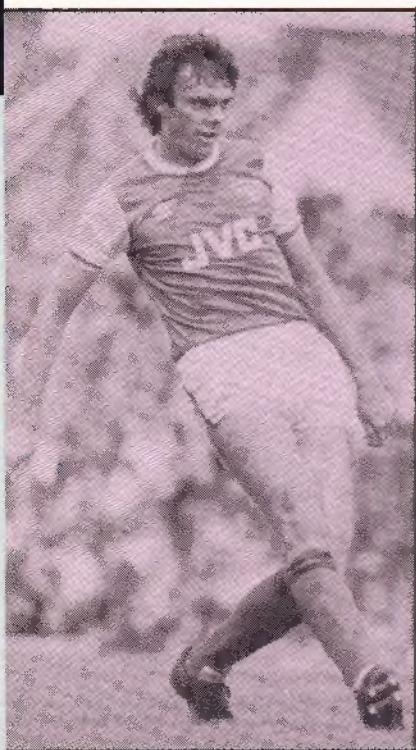
WE'LL TAME HARFORD

CHARLIE NICHOLAS

After watching Chelsea's Cup dreams crumble on two fronts in the space of four days, I'm reluctant to tip Arsenal for a visit to Wembley.

But confidence is so high at the moment that we're definitely looking to win at Luton on Saturday. We've got too many attacking players to try to sneak the draw.

Luton impressed me when we drew 2-2 at Kenilworth Road earlier in the season. It was one of the most open games I've ever played in.



Ricky Hill always looks good. He's got fine skills and a lot of strength. He's obviously benefited from their new plastic pitch, which is a lot better than QPR's.

Midfield is going to be the key to Saturday's tie. If we've got Paul Davis and Stewart Robson fit, I back us to come out on top. Ricky Hill doesn't enjoy picking people up, so if Paul can keep him quiet we'll see Robbo going forward on those surging runs of his.

Mick Harford is also going to take a lot of watching. Most of Luton's play is down the middle aimed to Harford's head, but David O'Leary (above), is playing so well right now that I'm certain we can handle the menace.



Shoot's all-star panel of experts judge this week's F.A. Cup ties

cost in the last round, George Graham's team are no respectors of reputation. They don't mess about and they get stuck in.

I met a fair number of Millwall fans on holiday last summer and they all reported the same thing—their boys may not be the most skilful players in the world but they go in where it hurts and would die for the club.

Big John Fashanu is typical of the Millwall approach. He's no Maradona, but puts himself about and he gets goals. That's what it's all about.

Intimidated

But I think Southampton are too experienced to be intimidated and feel they should just about have enough to win through to the Quarter-Finals.

I can't see a lot of goals, but little Danny Wallace is a real handful, particularly going down the middle where his pace can cause all sorts of problems for a big centre-half.

Southampton are very much an up and down team this season, but it's still very difficult to get anything from a trip to The Dell.

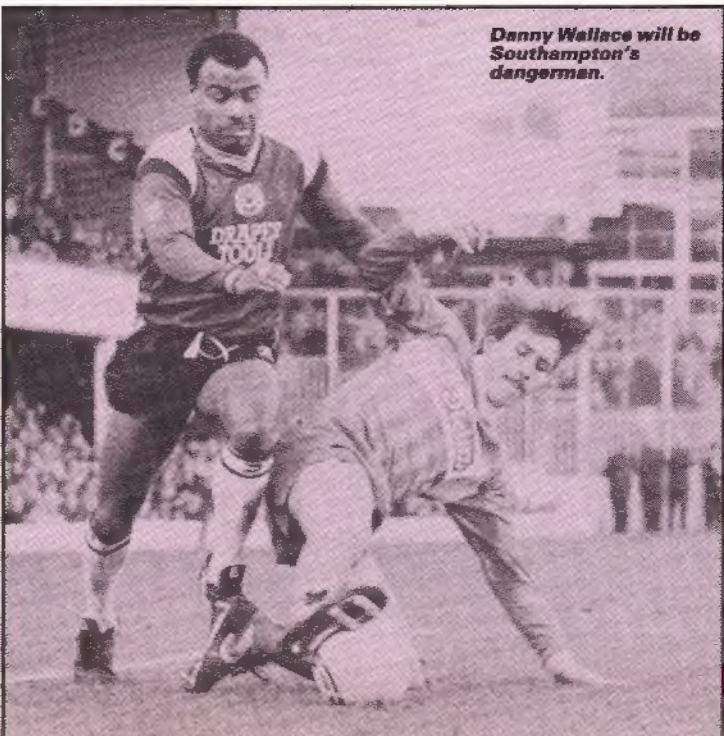
Soton v Millwall Demon Danny's danger

CHARLIE NICHOLAS

Southampton have got to finish Millwall off at the first time of asking or they will be in big trouble.

As Aston Villa found out to their

Danny Wallace will be Southampton's danger man.



Derby v Sheff Wed

GARRY'S MENACE

PETER REID

I fancy Wednesday to do well in the Cup this year, but they're going to have to scrap every inch of the way to get past Derby.

I remember playing against the great Derby team of ten years ago, when they had players like Archie Gemmill, Charlie George, Bruce Rioch and Roy McFarland in their team. The current team isn't in that class, but under Arthur Cox they're certainly getting there.

John Gregory, Gary Micklewhite, Mark Wallington and Trevor Christie all have First Division experience while Bobby Davison is one of the best goalscorers outside the top flight.

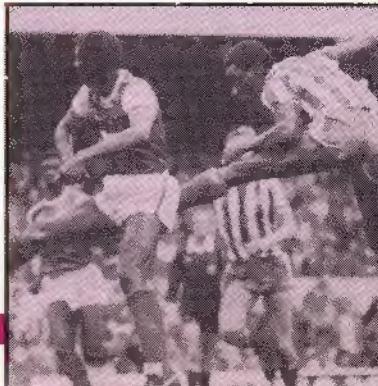
Tricky

And look out for my former Bolton pal Jeff Chandler, a tricky little winger with lots of pace and an eye for goal.

But for what it's worth, I tip Wednesday to just shade this one. They are one of the strongest sides in the country with a very distinctive style.

They put opponents under a lot of pressure and if he gets the right service from Brian Marwood and Andy Blair, Garry Thompson can be a real menace.

Garry Thompson's aerial power can trouble Derby.





We must crush Hoddie

Spurs v Everton

PETER REID

Glenn Hoddle holds the key to what has got to be the tie of the F.A. Cup Fifth Round.

If my England buddy is on form, then Everton are in for a real tough time at White Hart Lane. That's why I'll be working overtime to keep him quiet.

Spurs are twice the side when Glenn is on song. He can destroy any team in the country if he's allowed to get his long-range passing game going.

Nobody at Everton is under any illusions. Despite Tottenham's inconsistent form this season, this is going to be one hell of a scrap.

Glory

Out of the Milk Cup and with no real chance of getting into the Championship race, the F.A. Cup represents Tottenham's last chance of glory. If they lose to Everton, their season is over.

Don't ask me why they've struggled so much. They gave us a real run for our money last term, and it was only after our famous 2-1 win at White Hart Lane that

we burned them off in the home straight.

They signed Chris Waddle and Paul Allen during the summer and I expected them to come back stronger than ever. But that challenge just hasn't materialised.

There's a lot of pressure on manager Peter Shreeve and the crowd are starting to get on their backs. But all that will change for this Cup tie and I expect a full house at White Hart Lane to get right behind their team.

Tottenham's defence has come in for a lot of stick, and you always fancy your chances of getting a couple of goals against them. But at the same time, they are quite capable of hitting any team in the land for three or four on their day.

Chris Waddle and John Chiedozie are two very erratic



players, but they have the pace and trickery to cause us all sorts of problems if things are going right.

I'd also like to mention Steve Perryman, a man I have a great deal of admiration for. He's got a brilliant attitude and has been a great servant to Spurs.

Sunday's game could be our fourth meeting in 15 days if the League insist on us playing both legs of our Super Cup Semi-Final. That's hardly the ideal preparation for such an important tie. I just hope we're not sick and tired of the sight of each other.

Scored

I'm sure they'll be glad to see the back of Graeme Sharp and Gary Lineker. Gary scored his first goal for Everton when we won 1-0 at White Hart Lane at the beginning of the season and hasn't looked back since.

After all my injury problems this season, I'm determined to make up for lost time and help Everton back to Wembley. But I've a sneaking suspicion that we might need a replay to get through.

CONTINUED
OVER



York v Liverpool

Hold that Walwyn

IAN RUSH

YORK gave Liverpool a real fright in our F.A. Cup clash at Bootham Crescent last season.

The man who gave us most problems on a frozen pitch was West Indian striker Keith Walwyn.

His sheer size, strength and pace proved a real handful for Alan Hansen and Mark Lawrenson.

This guy has already scored over 20 goals this season and with the right service could be a hit in the First Division.

It was Keith's header against the bar last season that led to York's dramatic equaliser and a replay.

Relish

Liverpool won that 7-0 so the Third Division side won't relish another visit to Anfield.

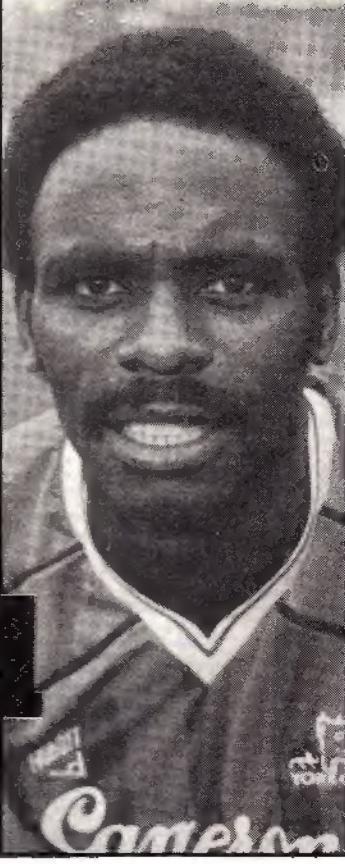
Liverpool are the first League side York have played in the F.A. Cup this season. So they aren't given much chance by the experts.

But I know all about giant-killing and just how much of a lift it gives a team.

I was a member of the Chester side that reached the Fifth Round of the F.A. Cup in 1979-80.

We were an average Third Division side and only lost 2-1 at Ipswich after toppling Newcastle at St James' Park.

So Liverpool will be treating York with the utmost respect, but I expect us to win.



P'boro v Brighton

I'm backing 'Fash'

IAN RUSH

FOLLOWING Peterborough's tremendous Cup wins over Leeds and Carlisle I was amazed to see them below half-way in the Fourth Division.

Brighton didn't look a promotion chasing side when Liverpool beat them 4-0 in the Milk Cup this season.

Good in attack with the big, bustling, often bruising Justin Fashanu proving the ideal target man for Terry Connor.

Mistakes

But Brighton made too many mistakes at the back for my liking. They beat Hull away in the last round but still conceded two goals.

Peterborough are famed Cup fighters of the past. Brighton are also establishing a reputation in the competition. They reached the Final in 1982-83 after beating Liverpool 2-1 to cause one of the major upsets of the decade.

Best Brighton can hope for is a draw with their edge up front just winning the replay.



It's Norman's Cup

BRYAN ROBSON

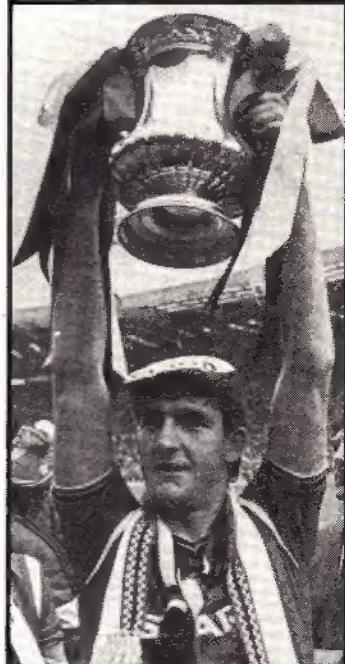
I am backing our Irish giant Norman Whiteside to steer Manchester United through this difficult away tie.

I can't think of a better Cup fighter than our Norm to see United into the Sixth Round in our bid to retain the F.A. Cup.

I don't know whether it is the magic of a Wembley appearance that gets into his bones at this time of year, but Norman has been Manchester United's most consistent performer in the F.A. Cup in recent seasons.

He has never looked back in this exciting competition since scoring one of Manchester United's four goals in the F.A. Cup Final replay against Brighton in 1983.

He got his hand on that Cup



BURIED!

BRYAN ROBSON

For the first time in my Shoot column I am at a loss for words. I have been silenced by the combined forces of Manchester City and Watford.

Asked to preview the Fifth Round tie between Bury and the winners of the Watford-Manchester City Fourth Round tussle, I found the task impossible.

The Watford-City clash had still not been resolved at the time Shoot went to Press. I was well and truly scuppered when the two clubs finished 0-0 at Vicarage Road after drawing 1-1 at Maine Road.

Sadly, I have to report that whichever First Division club meets Bury will go through to the Sixth Round.

It's the end of the road for Martin Dobson's team who have performed miracles to get this far. Chester, Tranmere and Barnsley were all knocked out of the Cup by the Third Division team, and Reading, runaway leaders of that Division, were thrashed 3-0 in a Fourth Round replay last month.

Bury's slim hopes rest on the shoulders of Craig Madden, their leading scorer, who struck twice against Reading. Craig has played almost 300 League games for Bury and scored more than 100 goals.

But even he will probably find it too tough away from home in this tie ... wherever it's played!

Pilgrims progress

In the 25th January issue I asked you to write and tell me how your club is trying to improve football's image.

The response was overwhelming, but keep those letters coming. Together we can prove there is still plenty to cheer about.

Philip Mulligan of Findon Gardens, Thornbury, Devon has written about his favourite club Plymouth Argyle.

"Apart from our Family Enclosure, the club have formed a Junior Pilgrims scheme for young fans up to 16-years-old.

"They organise regular five-a-side tournaments and special training on Wednesday nights.

"Members also get ten per cent off items purchased in several stores in Plymouth.

"Argyle may only be in the Third Division but they have made great efforts to encourage families and improve the image of the sport."

ED'S TEASER

THERE are six clubs in the First Division who have never won the F.A. Cup. Watford, QPR, Oxford and Coventry are four. Can you name the other two?

There's £5 to the first five correct entries opened after the closing date of Friday, 21st February, 1986.

Answer to Ed's Teaser February 1st issue was Rangers in 1981. Fivers on the way to: David Wallace, Glasgow; George Mason, Bedworth; J. T. Foley, Edinburgh; Trevor Hanna, Co. Down; Robert Clark, Morayshire.

PEN PALS

Marwaan Allie, 43 Portland Road, Salt River 7925, Cape Town, South Africa is 18-years-old and would like to hear from readers who support Manchester United, Spurs, Forest, Reading or Aberdeen.

Shoot view Bond magic

Only John Bond could have waved the magic wand to steer Birmingham to their first win in 18 League games.

Wayne Clarke, the player lucky enough to score the almost historic winning goal against

The Editor, Shoot Magazine, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.



BURNS FAN CLUB

Colin Clements, 36 Denbrae Street, Shottleston, Glasgow has formed a fan club for Celtic's Scotland ace Tommy Burns.

Colin has asked that any interested readers should write to him sending a stamped addressed envelope.

Oxford, summed-up the new Birmingham manager's contribution perfectly.

"He makes each and every one of us feel as if we're world beaters," said Clarke.

John Bond has had that special brand of magic to set him aside from others since his days at right-back for West Ham in the 1950s.

If The Hammers were struggling, they'd often turn the match in their favour by giving one of their defenders a go at centre-forward.

Bond was the man — and he has been winning lost causes ever since.

The Editor

Bring back Paul

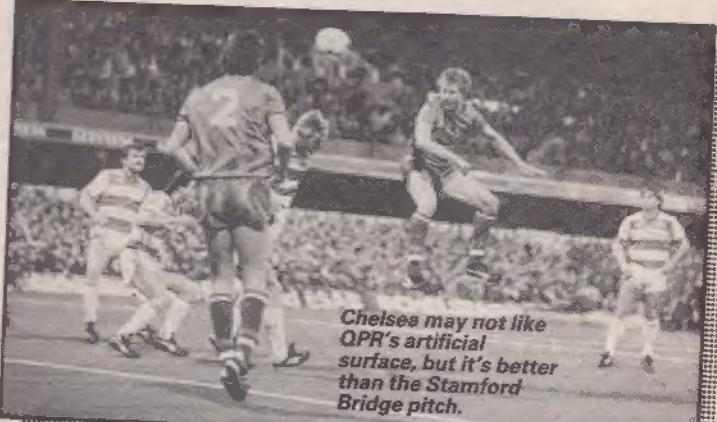
SURELY Liverpool striker Paul Walsh deserves another chance to prove he's worth a place in England's World Cup squad.

Paul has been in tremendous form this season but has yet to figure in Bobby Robson's teams.

I know he blotted his copybook a couple of years ago by telling Bobby he was "in the wrong frame of mind to play for the Under-21s."

But Walshie has served his sentence. Give him a go, Bobby!

Kick up the grass



Chelsea may not like QPR's artificial surface, but it's better than the Stamford Bridge pitch.

CHELSEA criticised QPR's plastic pitch in the programme for their recent Milk Cup Quarter-Final replay.

I'm not saying that the artificial surface at Loftus Road is the best of its kind, but the two teams would have found it much easier to play on than the quagmire at Stamford Bridge.

He is not the perfect manager. He admits he has made mistakes. He still regrets leaving Norwich for the grander challenge of running Manchester City.

But in these times of chessboard football, which has emptied many grounds, John Bond's teams are tailored to his attacking, colourful ideals.

Mess

No-one is better equipped to have a crack at sorting out the mess at Birmingham than Bond.

He has breezed into the club with no money to spend on improving the quality of

I must say I was surprised by manager John Hollins' comments afterwards.

He gave no credit to Rangers' saying Chelsea were by far the better side.

That aftermatch retort was very much out of character for one of the nicest guys in the game.

Birmingham's depressed squad.

And he has brought a smile to a St Andrews shrouded gloomily by the threat of relegation.

Bond depressed? Not on your nelly. He arrived at St Andrews with a promise to do everything possible to keep the club in the First Division on the limited resources available.

"I've got to get on with what I've got," is Bond's refreshingly optimistic attitude.

It came as no surprise that Birmingham should win their first game under his control.

Good luck, John. It's great to have you back in the First Division.

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All you have to do is answer the three questions about past F.A. Cup Finals, complete the coupon with your name, address and age and you could be a winner.

1. Everton beat Watford 2-0 in the 1984 Cup Final at Wembley (above). Can you name Everton's two scorers?

2. Ian Rush desperately wants to win an F.A. Cup winners medal. Liverpool last won the trophy in 1974. Which club did they beat in the Final 3-0?

RULES

All entries will be examined and the prizes awarded for the neatest correct entries, with age considered, in order of merit. The competition is open to readers in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Eire, the Channel Islands and Isle of Man other than employees (and their families) of IPC Magazines Ltd, Virgin Computer and the printers of SHOOT. The Editor's decision will be final in all matters and no correspondence can be entered into. Winners will be notified and the result published later in SHOOT.

3. Which club was the last from the Second Division to win the trophy?

HOW TO ENTER

Study the three questions and write the answers in the spaces on your entry coupon. Complete the coupon with your name, age and address, and stick to the back of a postcard or sealed down empty envelope. Post to SHOOT/VIRGIN COMPUTER COMPETITION, London SE9 6YP, to arrive no later than Monday, 3rd March, 1986.

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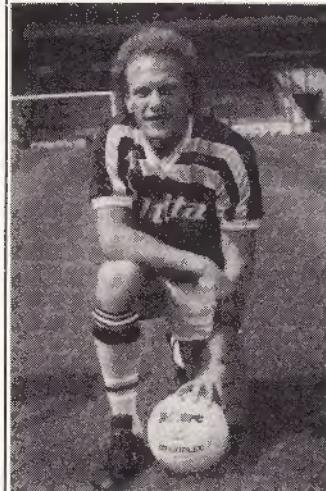
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'My big chance'

admits Brazil

When Alan Brazil scored a brilliant hat-trick for the Manchester United reserves he had high hopes of a first team recall. Instead he was sent to Coventry!

But you won't hear the 26-year-old striker complaining. Indeed, he sees the move to Highfield Road as the ideal opportunity to rekindle a career that has virtually been in cold storage for the past three years.

The balding Scot's nightmare began with what seemed like a dream £500,000 transfer from Ipswich to Tottenham ... and continued when he moved North to Old Trafford for £200,000 more.

"I've got to make up for lost time," he confesses. "It wasn't all bad news at Spurs and United but there wasn't much to write home about."

'Chance'

"I'm looking upon my move to Coventry as a chance to re-establish myself in the First Division."

"Ideally, I want to start enjoying my football again. I'd love to be banging in the goals the way I did at Ipswich."

It was at Portman Road, where he helped the homely Suffolk club to UEFA Cup glory in 1981 and runners-up spot in the

Championship on successive occasions, that Brazil earned his reputation.

"I can't put my finger on what went wrong when I left Ipswich," he explains, "but I still don't regret moving on."

"It was the right thing to do at the time and it was the same when United came in for me."

Brazil's switch to the Midlands in a deal that nets Coventry a further £300,000 in return for top scorer Terry Gibson's move in the opposite direction, ended months of speculation over his future.

'Battle'

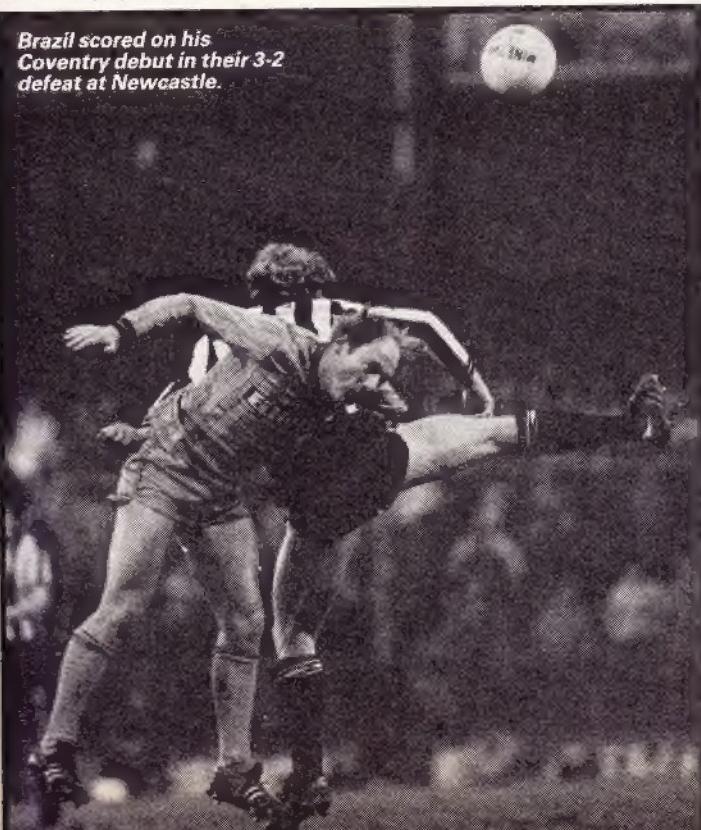
"There was a time, not so very long ago, when I'd have been prepared to stay at United and battle away for a first team place," he admits. "But in the end it was the club who decided there was no longer a place for me."

"Coventry are an ambitious club. I know they've had their fair share of relegation struggles over the years but this is their 19th consecutive season in the First Division and that's not a bad record."

"Obviously, our immediate priority is to stay up and I hope my goals will help. I'm excited at the thought of first team football again. After playing in Europe and the World Cup it wasn't easy to adjust



Brazil scored on his Coventry debut in their 3-2 defeat at Newcastle.



to United's reserves.

"I think the fact that I never really hit it off at Tottenham created extra pressure for me at Old Trafford. But I don't anticipate any similar problems at my new club."

The cash surplus on the Gibson-Brazil deal enabled Coventry to reinforce their survival bid with the acquisition of full-backs Jim McInally from Nottingham Forest and Nick Pickering from Sunderland.

But it will be to Brazil that The Sky Blues will look for the main inspiration. "I've been bought to score goals and I'm confident I can do it," he asserts.

What's new?

Cloughie's video gift

BRIAN CLOUGH, one of the most outspoken critics of televised soccer, has ordered 12 videos of the BBC's Match of the Day programme which featured Forest's 3-2 win at Manchester United.

"I did it for the younger players in my side like GREG FLEMING, DES WALKER, BRETT WILLIAMS, my lad NIGEL and FRANZ CARR."

"I don't know whether any of them has a long-term future in the game, but they deserve a memento of the United match and the part they played in our win."



Grimsby grit

YOU put your left leg in, your right leg out... A double dose of misery for Grimsby defenders KEVIN MOORE (left) and his brother ANDY. A definite case of putting your worst foot forward.

KEITH HACKETT will referee the Milk Cup Final, on Sunday, April 20 at Wembley.

The Northern Irish F.A. have ruled out any possibility of a World Cup warm-up against Scotland in New Mexico.

"We thought about it, but decided against it," says I.F.A. secretary DAVID BOWEN. "The risk of injury just a couple of weeks before the Finals would be too great."

Loudmouth



IRWIN



Red Rangers

Optimistic Rangers have organised a three-game end of season tour to the USSR. "The idea is to play top quality sides as preparation for European football," says manager JOCK WALLACE.

Bertschin's dream

The splendid recent form of Stoke City has convinced leading scorer KEITH BERTSCHIN that they could be surprise contenders for promotion.

"I went straight back to the First Division with Birmingham and Norwich and I believe I can make it a hat-trick with Stoke," says Keith (left).

"We have a lot of ground to make up, but the third spot is definitely up for grabs and the way we are playing now I reckon we can make it."

● Former Scotland World Cup skipper BRUCE RIOCH has been appointed manager at Middlesbrough.

Mark Irwin knows

AT LARGE

GIBSON

'Glad I left Spurs'

Manchester United's new striker TERRY GIBSON is convinced he would never have made the grade had he stayed at Tottenham Hotspur.

The £650,000 goalscorer was sold by Spurs to Coventry for just £70,000 in 1983 and is convinced that was the turning point of his career.

"I was about fifth in line for a place in the Spurs attack when I left and that's probably where I'd still be today," says the little 23-year-old.

"Lads like IAN CROOK and ALLY DICK, who were both ahead of me in the queue, are still waiting for their chance at White Hart Lane and I don't think I'd have been any different."

"I got into the habit of regarding myself as a reserve team player at Spurs. My three years at Coventry changed all that and my confidence is now sky high."

"Competition for places is going to be tougher at United than it was at Spurs, but I regard myself as number one at Old Trafford."

Former Celtic and Scotland star TOMMY GEMMELL has taken over one of the toughest jobs in British football — manager of Albion Rovers, who are stranded at the foot of the Scottish Second Division.

Gary aims to join the greats

Everton striker GARY LINEKER may be the most in-form striker in British football, but the England hot-shot is still waiting to score his first 'great' goal.

"I've never hit a shot from 30 yards out which thunders into the top corner. All my goals come from inside the penalty box," confesses Gary.

"My style of finishing is also changing."

"My speciality at Leicester was running on to the through ball and striking it home. With Everton, I am scoring a lot more headers."



It never rains ...

Remember how Arsenal's week-long trip to Bermuda in December was ruined by monsoons? Well, Newcastle and Forest took advantage of their F.A. Cup absence the other week to meet each other on the same sunshine island ... and it rained non-stop!

HODGE

'I can follow Robson'

STEVE HODGE's inclusion in the England squad for last month's game in Israel has encouraged him to believe that he can keep his place for Mexico.

Says Aston Villa's 23-year-old midfield man: "We all know that BRYAN ROBSON will be top man, but if they want somebody to be a back-up and step in if he has any sort of problems then I think I could be in contention."

"I have proved myself at Under-21 level and in the First Division. Now I have got to take my chance if I get a game in the senior international side."

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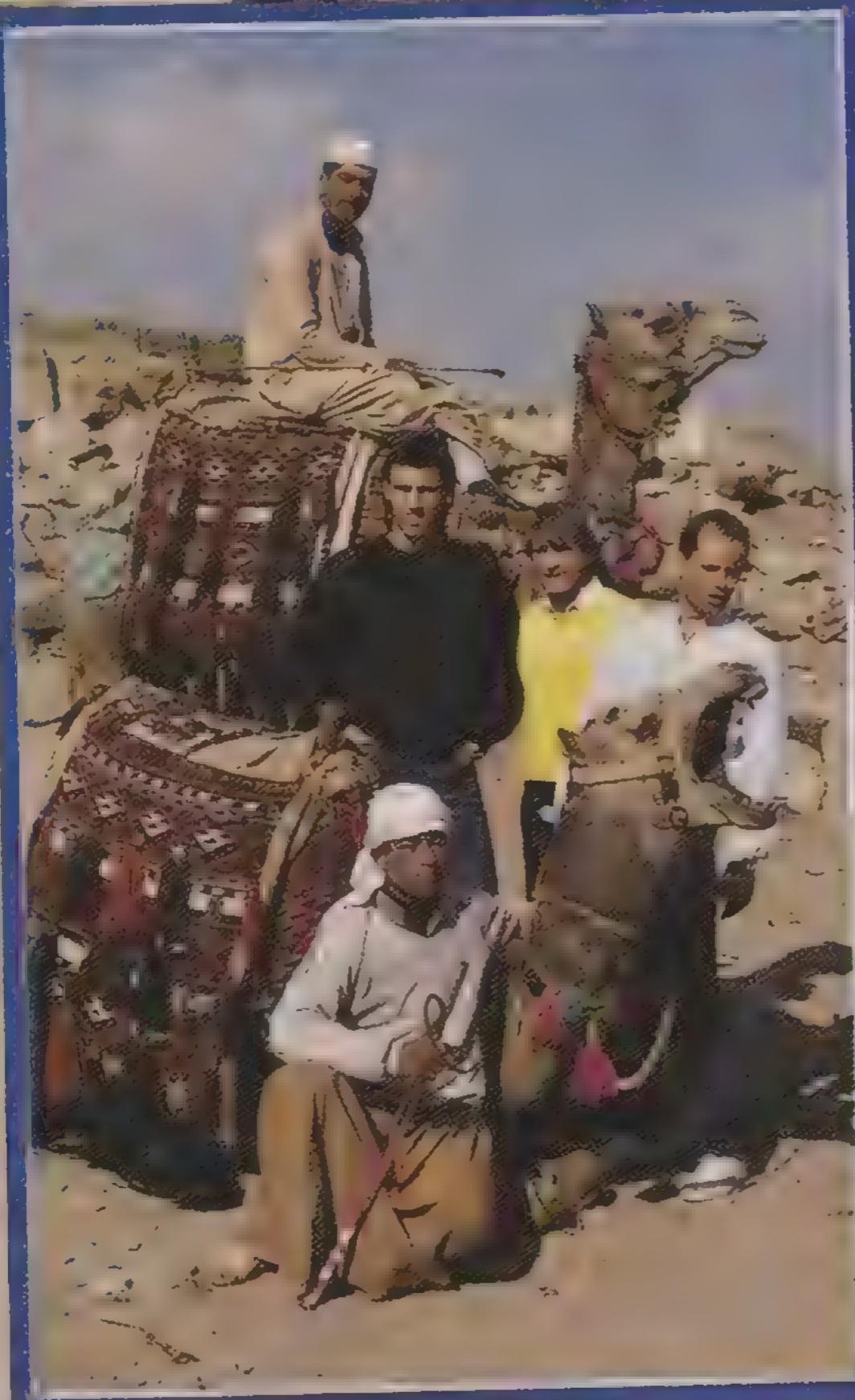
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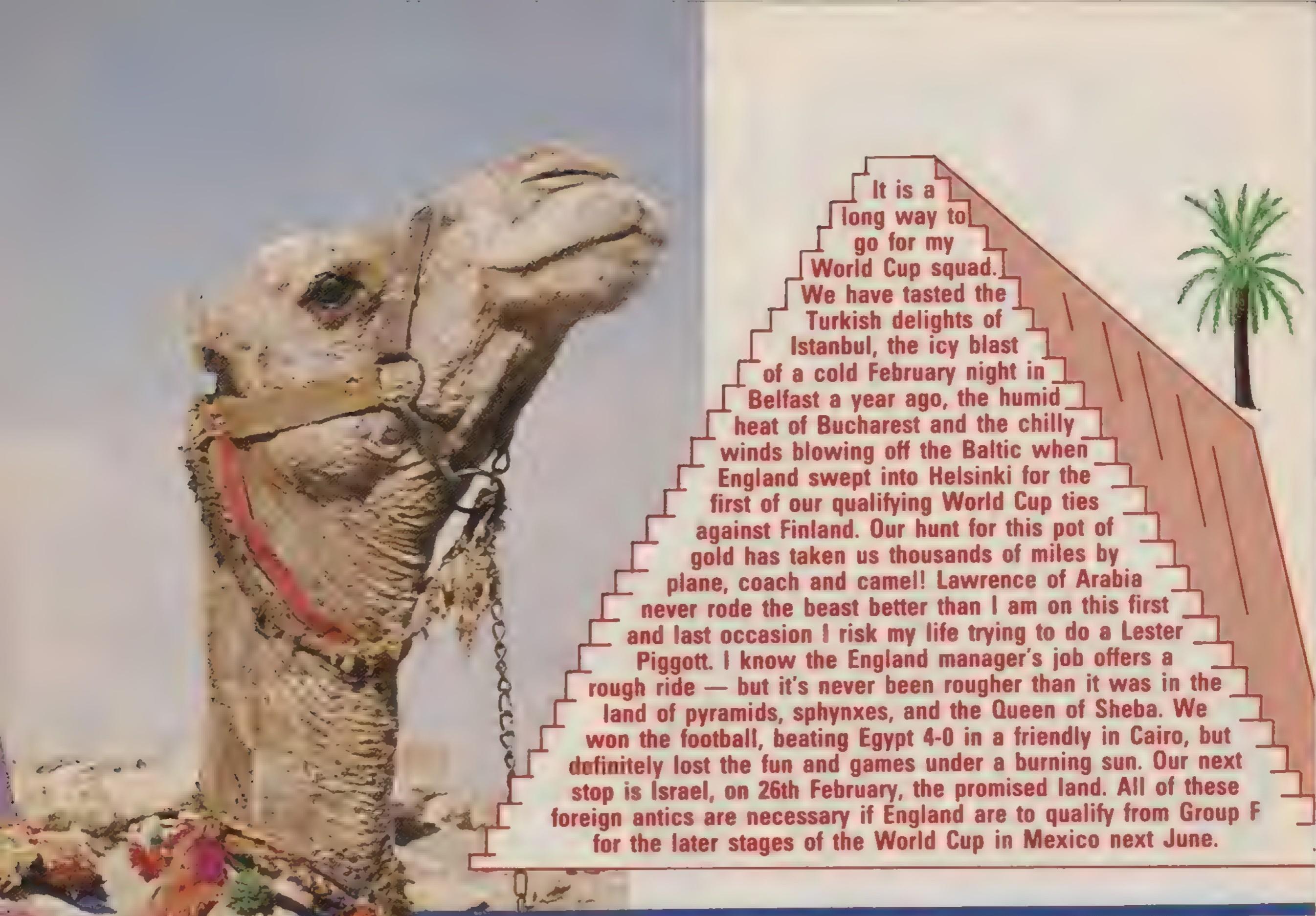
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Bobby's road to Mexico

High-riding Bobby Robson samples Egyptian transport while the Italian connection of Mark Hateley, Gordon Cowling and Ray Wilkins (below) confirm firmly on the ground.





It is a long way to go for my World Cup squad. We have tasted the Turkish delights of Istanbul, the icy blast of a cold February night in Belfast a year ago, the humid heat of Bucharest and the chilly winds blowing off the Baltic when England swept into Helsinki for the first of our qualifying World Cup ties against Finland. Our hunt for this pot of gold has taken us thousands of miles by plane, coach and camel! Lawrence of Arabia never rode the beast better than I am on this first and last occasion I risk my life trying to do a Lester Piggott. I know the England manager's job offers a rough ride — but it's never been rougher than it was in the land of pyramids, sphynxes, and the Queen of Sheba. We won the football, beating Egypt 4-0 in a friendly in Cairo, but definitely lost the fun and games under a burning sun. Our next stop is Israel, on 26th February, the promised land. All of these foreign antics are necessary if England are to qualify from Group F for the later stages of the World Cup in Mexico next June.



Beat the Clock

Compiled by JOHN HAMON

Pit your wits against our quiz master and his stopwatch. Beat the time limit on each section — and check your rating. Genius — 5 out of 5; Excellent — 4 out of 5; Good — 3 out of 5.

COUSINS

This Tottenham midfield player has two cousins starring in the First Division. Name the three relatives and their clubs.

WHO AM I?

I play in the Second Division with a side from East Anglia. I am a full England international. Who am I?

RANGERS SUNK

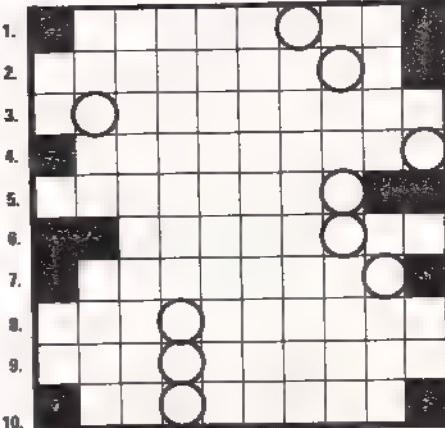
1 min

Name the former Rangers star who scored the first goal in Hearts' 3-2 Scottish Cup Third Round victory against his former club.



X-WORD

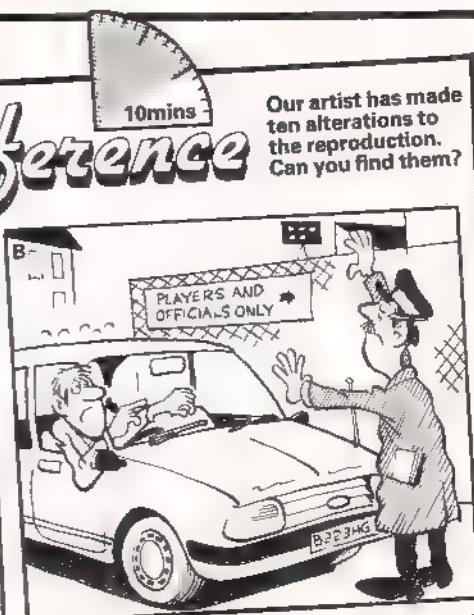
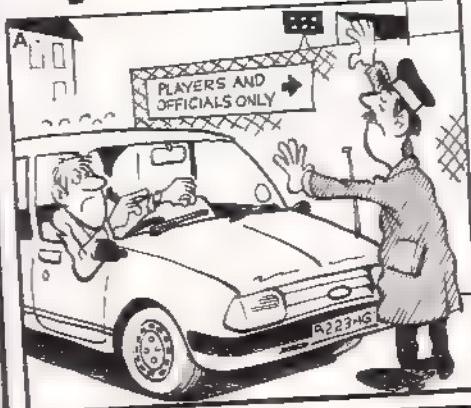
Place the answers to the eleven clues in the corresponding places in the square below. (1 to 10 Across & 11 Down). When this is all completed the letters in the circled squares can be rearranged to give the name of a Manchester United defender (5 & 5)



- (1) Ray —, Spurs goalkeeper. (8)
- (2) Arsenal midfield player. (6 & 3)
- (3) Birmingham City midfielder. (3 & 7)
- (4) Spurs striker. (4 & 5)
- (5) Gordon —, former Sunderland defender. (8)
- (6) Neville —, Everton keeper. (8)
- (7) Alex —, Scotland manager. (8)
- (8) Southampton defender. (4 & 6)
- (9) Liverpool defender. (5 & 5)
- (10) Ian —, Everton defender. (8)
- (11) Manchester United striker. (4 & 6)

Our artist has made ten alterations to the reproduction. Can you find them?

Spot the difference



ANSWERS ON PAGE 34

cloughie

SPEAKING HIS MIND

My Chelsea CLANGER!

Not so long ago I was talking about the First Division Championship and said that three teams were capable of winning it — Liverpool, Everton and Manchester United.

I was aware of dismissing the cockney challenge, but bighead might just have been wrong.

For the more I see of Chelsea, the more I think they are capable of having their say in May.

I really felt for John Hollins when he had to sit and watch his depleted side go out of the F.A. Cup and the Milk Cup in the space of three days.

Chelsea are not a team of household

names, but they do look as if they want to play for one another and that's a tribute to young Hollins and John Neal.

They've quietly built a very good side over the last couple of years and in a lot of ways remind me of the team we had at Forest when we won promotion and went straight on to take the title.

Kerry Dixon's injury could not have come at a worse time and although I'm not the lad's biggest fan he does have a terrible habit of putting the ball in the net.

Determination

David Speedie also proved he has ability and the determination to put his head and his feet where it hurts to get results for the side.

And one of the reasons Pat Nevin has done so well is the fact that he's not

afraid to come back for more when defenders are dishing it out.

Chelsea seem to have enough steel throughout the team and I was particularly impressed with the way they went about things when I saw them on the box against West Bromwich Albion.

They won well, scored some good goals and there was a no nonsense approach. When they stuck a goal in they didn't get carried away — just a little pat on the back and a "Let's get on with the game" attitude.

If they apply that kind of spirit to their recent setbacks I'm certain they can go all the way to the Championship.

If they do I'll be first to hold my hand up to them and admit I dropped a big clanger.

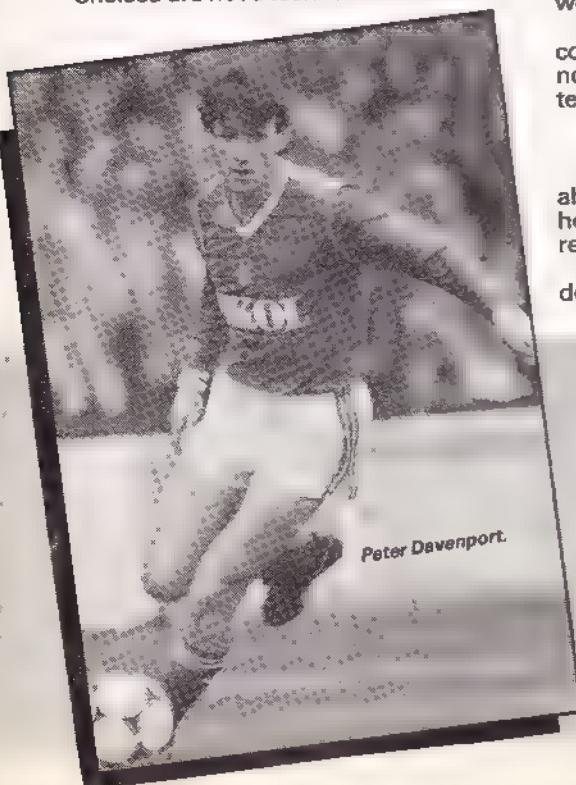
OPEN TO OFFERS

I can't for the life of me understand what all the fuss was about when I made it known we would be willing to listen to offers for Garry Birtles, Peter Davenport and my lad Nigel.

I'm not daft enough to think it's not a "Good story" but it doesn't mean anything special. I'll tell you how it all came about.

It was thought by my board that there was a need to raise a few bob by selling a player. And all I was doing was letting it be known that if some clubs wanted to knock my head off with the size of their bids then I would listen to them.

But I've always maintained that at any time that every player has a price and if it was a good deal for the club — and the player and I were happy about the arrangements — I would do business. It's as simple as that.



Peter Davenport.



'Sort yourself out Leworthy'

HE HAS!



When David Leworthy fired in two goals against Southampton on his Oxford debut, it was triumph for the striker who had vowed to sort out his temperament, work at his game and never give up.

The 23-year-old striker started with home club Portsmouth, but his hair-trigger attitude soon had him in trouble.

He cured that problem but never made the grade and Pompey gave him the axe.

David next took the one job on offer: part-time professional with Southern League Fareham. "I just concentrated on doing the business — banging in goals until someone noticed."

Someone did... Tottenham. "I gave them everything I had, but it's one hell of a job breaking through at White Hart Lane. And unlike so many of Tottenham's players, I had no First Division background."

'Competitive'

But in only a handful of first team appearances, Leworthy whipped in five goals. He fought, chased and challenged. Those were the qualities that attracted Oxford manager Maurice Evans and now this quick, competitive raider has a regular First Division place.

"Oxford have helped me fulfil the target I set myself when I

started out with Portsmouth as an apprentice: a regular slot in a First Division team. What's more, I'm hunting with one of the best around in John Aldridge."

"I look at the best First Division partnerships like Kerry Dixon and David Speedie; Mark Hughes and Frank Stapleton, Gary Lineker and Graeme Sharp. And I think that's what John and I can become."

"I've had my share of the bad times and that is more than enough motivation for me to take this Oxford opportunity by the scruff of the neck!"

When David started at Fratton Park, his first battle was with his temper. "As a youngster, I was too quick to flare up. Frank Burrows was manager then and he told me to sort myself out. That was absolutely right."

'Problems'

"I gradually got control of my temper and beat my problems. I came through the ranks, made one appearance as substitute against Newport and was then axed in an economy drive. It was a dreadful blow."

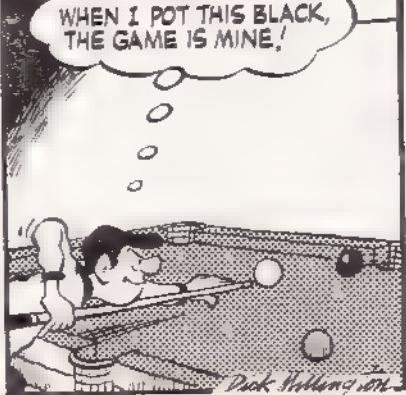
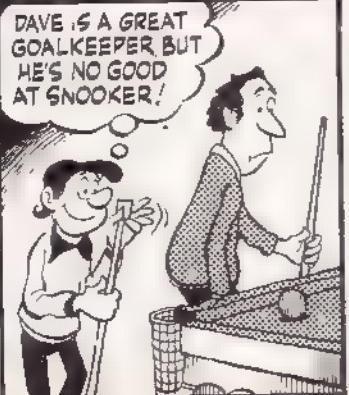
"Fareham took me on. I scored consistently for them until Spurs came in and offered a week's trial. I did enough in those few days to get a contract but that regular first team place was just out of reach."

"Finally, Oxford signed me to work alongside John Aldridge. I enjoyed Tottenham but, at last, I've got everything I want. I've been a long time getting there and faced my share of problems on the way. Now I aim to prove myself for everyone to see."

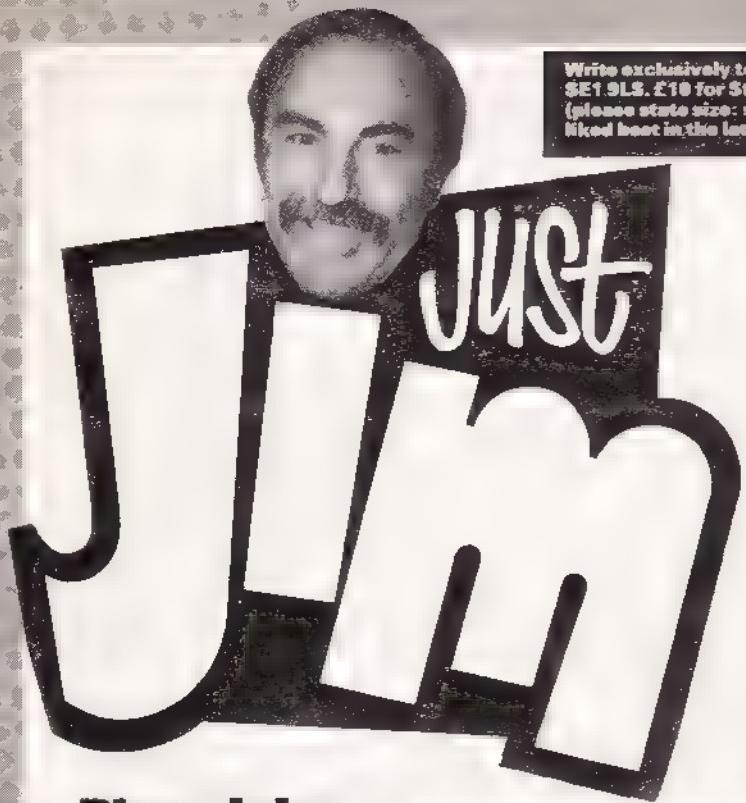


Leworthy tests Mr. Rooney's
Challenge in the F.A. Cup Third Round

BOOTHBY



Write exclusively to: Jimmy Greaves, SHOOT, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. £10 for Star Letter, £4 for others published. Overseas readers receive SHOOT T-shirts (please state size: small, medium or large). When writing please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue. We regret no personal correspondence can be entered into.



Dixon joke

I'd like to thank Chelsea chairman Ken Bates for giving me such a good laugh. £5 million for Kerry Dixon? He has got to be joking.

**JULIE DELL,
CATFORD, LONDON.**

 You should know by now that Ken Bates never makes jokes. Kerry Dixon (below) is not for sale and this is simply Chelsea's way of letting everyone know.



SOUNDING OFF

I know I was critical of England's game in Egypt and still believe that all we learned from the trip was that Egypt have a goalkeeper who looks and plays like President Nasser! But the important thing is that it keeps Bobby Robson happy and that's essential as we enter a very tense period before the World

England first

I'm sick and tired of players being unavailable for England because of club commitments. Surely our national side is of far more importance.

**T. BOWEN,
BRAMCOTE HILLS, NOTTS.**

 This is an odd problem and the only solution is to reduce the First Division to 16 teams. Yes, players should always be available to play for their country, but you can't expect clubs to release their best men when they've got important and lucrative Cup ties at stake. It's the system which is at fault, not the clubs.

Cup Finals. It doesn't matter if I think we should have been playing better opposition. So long as our manager believes he is maintaining continuity and improving our chances of doing well in Mexico, we have to give him our full support and total backing.

WALLY

OF THE WEEK

It's about time Norwich got rid of Ken Brown. They haven't had a change of manager for years and their players need a new influence to keep them on their toes

**Craig Marshall,
Newmarket, Suffolk.**

 Blimey, I thought I'd heard every excuse possible for getting rid of a manager, but yours really takes the biscuit. Ken Brown is doing a great job at Carrow Road and will lead them straight back to the First Division at the end of the season. And you are an absolute wally if you can't see that.

This week's Star Letter and £10 winner comes from **Bobby Brookes of Caldecott Crescent, Whitchurch in Shropshire.**



No chance Bond

Birmingham don't need John Bond as manager — they need Superman. Bondy couldn't do much for Swansea so he's got no chance at St. Andrews.

 Superman wants more than three million dollars to make his next movie, so Blues have got no chance there. John Bond was on the dole and desperate for a job and Birmingham were just as frantic for a boss who wouldn't cost them the earth. One thing is for sure — Bondy will bring a complete new style of leadership to St. Andrews. He'll tell his players to go out and give it a go. So what if they lose 5-0 — is it any worse than defending all game and losing 1-0? If he can get Trevor Francis back from Sampdoria, he'll put 10,000 on the gates and get the place buzzing again. He's got to lift the mood of depression surrounding St. Andrews.

Good time Charlie

Thank goodness Charlie Nicholas is finally starting to produce the goods for Arsenal. Now we'll see what all the fuss was about when he left Celtic three years ago.

**SAMUEL McFADDEN,
DUNDONALD, BELFAST.**

 Charlie was a potentially great player when he left Celtic and it looks as though he's finally starting to fulfil some of that early promise. He's making headlines for all the right reasons and playing the football we all suspected he was capable of. I'm delighted for Charlie (below), for Arsenal and for football in general because we can never have too many crowd pleasers.



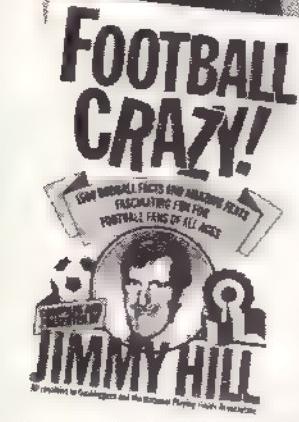
More subs

After watching The Big Match Live featuring Chelsea and Liverpool, I have to agree with Gary Lineker (above). We should have two substitutes per team.

**KEITH WARTHURST,
NORTHALLERTON, N. YORKS.**

 This proposal has already been discussed at a very high level and it's only a matter of time before it's adopted by the Football League. I'd go even further, I'd make it three subs, but one must be a goalkeeper who can only come on if the first choice 'keeper is genuinely injured.





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Injury and Cup commitments have cost England the services of centre-half Terry Butcher for their last four games. But the giant Ipswich stopper is currently playing better than ever and determined to recapture his international edge in time for Mexico. As Everton's Graeme Sharp here finds out, the best of Terry Butcher certainly takes some beating.



David Pleat has proved to be one of the finest managers in Football League history in the eight years he has run Luton Town.

His record does not stand comparison with Bill Shankly, Matt Busby and Bill Nicholson of the old guard, or Howard Kendall, Ron Atkinson and Keith Burkinshaw of more modern times in terms of trophy winning exploits.

But Pleat has earned a proud corner in the dressing-room of top managers having turned a small club in a small provincial town into a highly competitive team capable of meeting and beating all the 'super' clubs.

His record in the transfer market is arguably as good, and maybe even better, than that of Brian Clough

Shrewdly

He has built several successful teams by dealing shrewdly in the transfer market and raised £880,000 by selling eight players shortly after taking charge.

He replaced the Luton favourites with an untried but subsequently successful group of players who took the club to the Second Division Championship in 1981-82.

"A very capable team," says Pleat when discussing the men who drove Luton into the top flight.

The arrival of Paul Walsh, now a Liverpool dangerman, and Paul Elliott, now with Aston Villa, maintained progress, while clubs with short-sighted ambitions

Pleat King of the wheeler dealers

struggled under poor management and lacklustre boardroom direction.

This season, Mick Harford, David Preece, Peter Nicholas and Steve Foster represent the 'new' Luton, a team boasting no fewer than seven internationals — Hill, Stein, Foster (England); Nicholas (Wales); Donaghy (Northern Ireland), Grimes (Republic of Ireland), and Nwajobi (Nigeria).

Their charge up the First Division table on their new plastic playing surface has been nothing short of phenomenal after reaching the FA Cup Semi-Finals last season.

Steve Foster, rejected by Aston Villa, has been a powerhouse.

If Bobby Robson could pick three teams for the World Cup Finals, Foster would clearly claim

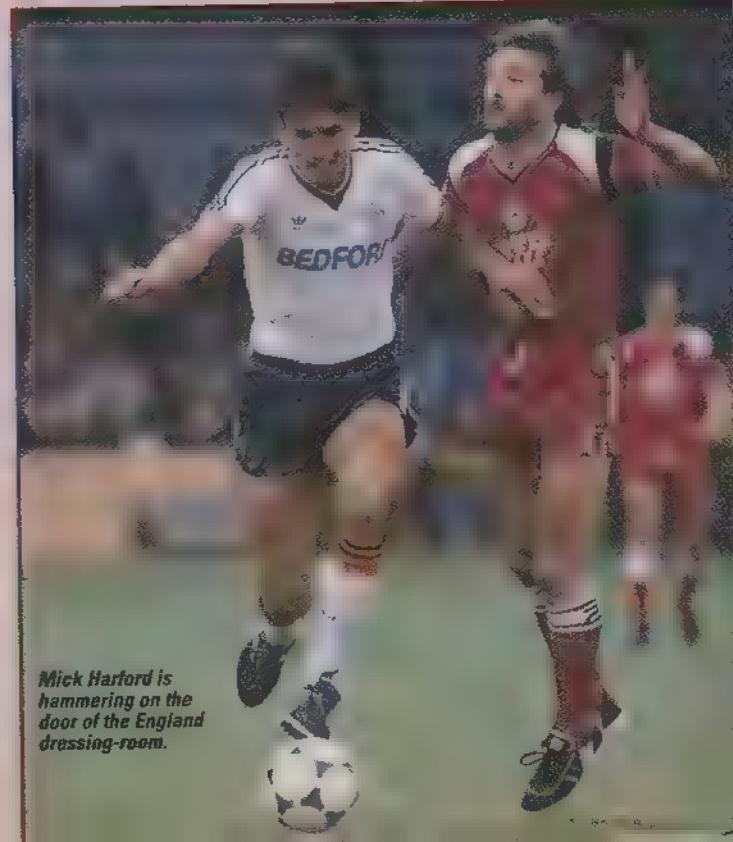
CLUB HONOURS

- Division 2—Champions 1981-82
- Division 3 (South) Champions 1986-87
- Division 4 Champions 1967-68

the centre-half berth in one of them.

And his enthusiasm and defensive talents in Luton's defence have taken all the pressure off one of the most exciting midfields and attacks in the First Division.

David Pleat will not admit that his current team is the best of his eight year reign, but West Ham, beaten 1-0 at Upton Park; Southampton, beaten 7-0 with Brian Stein scoring a hat-trick; and Spurs, defeated 3-1 at White



Mick Harford is hammering on the door of the England dressing-room.

LUTON TOWN



Hart Lane, would accept that Luton's current side is arguably the best team in the club's 101 year history.

Some would argue also, that to build a winning First Division team on a small bank balance, in a small provincial English town is a talent worthy of the same recognition as those who prospered at world famous clubs, with the money to buy the best players in Britain.



Ricky Hill,
recalled for the
game in Egypt.

England blazer boys?



Brian Stein is scoring regularly once more.

Four star Luton players have refused to book summer holidays for their families this year

They dream of making only one excursion, to the World Cup, wearing the England blazer.

Mick Harford, Brian Stein, Ricky Hill and Mitchell Thomas live in hope that their superb displays in Luton's Championship chasing exploits this season will persuade Bobby Robson to give them a place in the England squad.

Keen

Stein, the club's top scorer, has flirted briefly with England and is hoping to resurrect his international career after two England appearances, and his co-striker Mick Harford is so keen to make the grade that he drove home his 15th goal against Bristol Rovers less than three weeks after a knee operation.

Hill's two England appearances in the autumn of 1982 were cut short by the progress of Sammy Lee, Steve Williams and John

Gregory in the white shirt, but his form this season earned him a recall against Egypt in Cairo last month

Mitchell Thomas, Luton's tall, strong tackling and fast left-back, is possibly the most likely candidate for an England call-up as understudy to Kenny Sansom.

He has become one of the season's most exciting discoveries with his fluent attacking runs and devastating powers of recovery.

No member of Luton's illustrious quartet would let England down and that is why they are reluctant to commit themselves to close season family commitments.

FRONT LEFT: John Faulkner (coach), Trevor Hartley (coach), John Sheridan (physio), John Moore (coach), Mitchell Thomas, Mick Harford, Paul Elliott (now Aston Villa), Steve Foster, Stacey North, Ashley Grimes, Mark North, Garry Parker, Andy Dibble, Les Sealey, Mal Donaghy, Ricky Hill, Emeka Nwajiobi, Tim Breacker, Brian Stein, Peter Nicholas, Ray Daniel, Robbie Johnson, Mark Stein, David Preece, David Pleat (manager).

It's Manchester's main attraction City strikers Mark Lillis and Gordon Davies are setting up a business as rivals to the Mark Hughes/ Frank Stapleton partnership at United.

And with Hughes suspended from Wales' first three European Championship matches next season Davies is favourite to take over star-strike law. Rest.

"It is really first time in the First Division for both of us," says Lillis. "I never played there for Huddersfield and Gordon had no more than a handful of games for Chelsea."

"But now we feel we are hitting it off. All the top sides have strikers who beat pairs and there is nothing more satisfying than when we hit the target in the same game - like beating Coventry or winning at Tottenham."

"It takes time and patience. But now the understanding is coming on by leaps and bounds."

"I'm the big fellow who can take the weight off Gordon. He is sharper over the ground with a shade more skin."

But what matters above all is that we score the goals that win matches for the club and get us up the table.

Davies has even brought to Maine Road a touch of the Kerry Dixon/David Speed expertise from Stamford Bridge.

"When we played Chelsea we noticed that those two never stop talking to each other," says Lillis.

"When Gordon joined us he said I'll always let you know where I am. You let me know where you are."

"Now we are on to each other all the way. After 90 minutes and it works. When you know in advance that the other guy is going to turn to kick through make a run or take a certain position then you are in the fast lane going for goal."

Lillis is also an admirer of the

Drifted

Davies approach. He had a dry spell soon after joining us. The goals still would not come. Some players would have quietly drifted out - but not Gordon.

"He's not the sitting kind. He worked twice as hard to pick up the positions from where he knew the goals would come - and before long they did."

Please say that he's quick over ten yards. And he is. But

haven't noticed him being slow over 30 to 40 yards either. Some of the smaller players often face in those kind of runs but Gordon goes that far looking for work and the rest on."

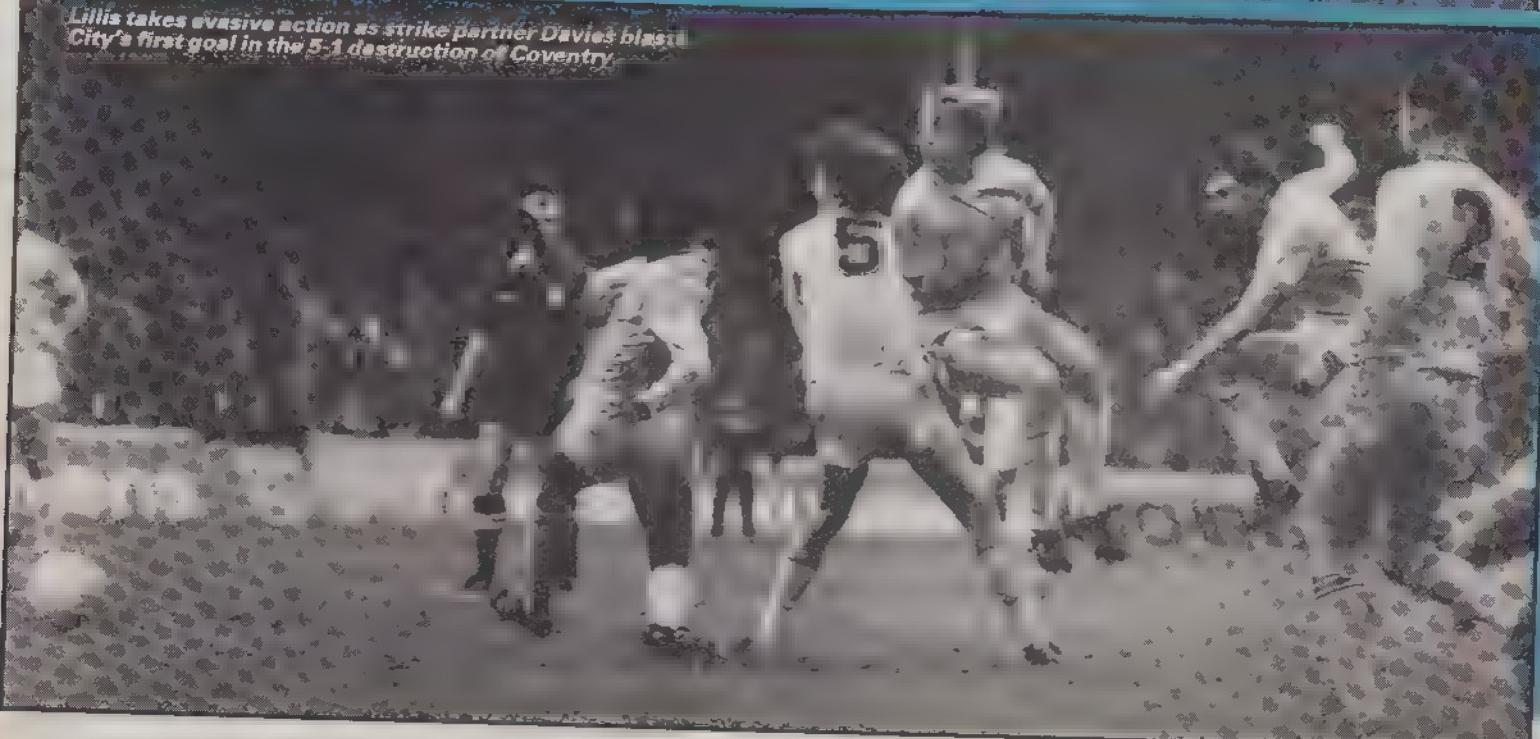
Perhaps City are picking up as a direct result of us hitting it off but in turn our thanks go to the rest of the team. They have got used to us and are providing the service from which we can go to work.



city's deadly double-act

We're hitting it off' Lillis

Lillis takes evasive action as strike partner Davies blasts City's first goal in the 5-1 destruction of Coventry.



TARGET MAN

Target Man reports on the big showdown between Steve Foster and Paul Elliott.

Overall performance

FOSTER: Got out of his sickbed after two days with flu to play. You would never have known. Dominated the game.

ELLIOTT: Did enough to see why Villa were ready to break the bank to buy him, but he has clearly not yet regained his confidence after a broken leg and a spell in the reserves.

Aston Villa completed the season's most bizarre transfer when they spent £400,000 on centre-half Paul Elliott from Luton. For Elliott had been kept in the reserves at Kenilworth Road by Steve Foster... who had himself left Villa Park at a knockdown price of £70,000. Who got the best deal? Shoot sent Target Man to watch the confrontation during Villa's 2-0 defeat at Luton...

Control

FOSTER: Not the prettiest of players. But when he settled on the ball, he looked comfortable.

ELLIOTT: Excellent. Confident on the ball, and not afraid to join the attacking.

PAUL ELLIOTT

Tackling

FOSTER: Two solid tackles and won them cleanly, but also showed he could "nick" the ball.

ELLIOTT: Good on the ground and put his full weight into a tackle. Well balanced to hold off and time his tackle to his best advantage.

Steve wins it

Heading

FOSTER: First class. Got good distance on all his clearances, and hit the bar when he joined the attack late in the game. Lost little against either Andy Gray or Simon Stainrod.

ELLIOTT: He's 6ft 2ins and so you'd expect him to dominate in the air, but he failed to time a couple of jumps against Mike Newell. Detailed to mark Foster at set-pieces, he won every contest.

Pace

FOSTER: Not the fastest, but makes up for that with his positional play.
ELLIOTT: Quick. His long legs can eat up the ground when they need to.

Distribution

FOSTER: No frills. He's just as happy hitting row Z in the stand as a team-mate so long as the ball is out of the danger area.
ELLIOTT: Always looking to use the ball constructively... but that wasn't always to Villa's advantage. His unconvincing header led indirectly to Luton's opening goal.

Verdict

Villa might get their money's worth in the long term... but there's little doubt on the evidence of this game that Foster is the best bet now.

WORLD WIDE



Compiled by TONY ROCHE

Boniek's England blast!

England beware! Poland ace Zbigniew Boniek is gunning for Bobby Robson's boys.

The Roma star has declared that the forthcoming World Cup in Mexico will signal the end of a distinguished international career that to date records 24 goals in 72 games, mostly from midfield.

"I have been proud to represent my country at this level, but the time must come when players such as me step down and make way for the new breed of youngsters. But before I go I want to make a special mark on the competition, such as leaving England stranded with a couple of special goals," he warns.

County's man for Mexico

Rachid Harkouk of Notts County has been snapped up by Algeria in their quest for World Cup glory.

Harkouk (right), County's inconsistent but talented striker, is named in Algeria's 40-player squad

But the Algerians are more concerned with his experience of British football, specifically related to the selection of Northern Ireland in their Group D, than they are in his current playing record for the Third Division promotion hopefuls.



Kempes must stay

MARIO KEMPES, goalscoring sensation of the 1978 World Cup Finals in Argentina, has been told his proposed transfer to Austrian club Vienna has been postponed.

The Second Division Austrians were sure of clinching the deal before the end of their season, but Kempes' current club, Hercules Alicante, refuse to release him until they are out of relegation danger in the Spanish League.

NEWS FLASH

- Footballer of the Year in the USSR is defender Anatol Demjanenko, 26-year-old defender with Champions Dynamo Kiev.

- As predicted by Trevor Francis in last week's SHOOT — Michel Platini has ended his dispute with Juventus and signed a new three-year contract worth £1 million plus bonuses!

- AS Roma are chasing Danish star Preben Larsen, who is currently playing for Hellas Verona.

- Austrian World Cup star Hans Krankl has been transferred from Rapid Wien to Wiener SC.

- Portugal have decided on just three pre-World Cup games before flying out to South America — at home to Finland, Luxembourg and East Germany.



Falcao shock

Roberto Falcao, whose transfer from AS Roma to São Paulo ensured his inclusion in the Brazilian World Cup squad, has shocked Italy by declaring that he will be back after the 1986 tournament.

Falcao, a star of the 1982 tournament in Spain, admitted: "I was worried that I would miss the 1986 Finals if I was still playing in Europe."

Argentina v Atletico



Atletico Madrid striker Luis Mario Cabrera has been handed the ultimate in heartbreaking options — your club or your country.

The Argentine-born forward (left) is wanted by national manager Carlos Bilardo for the 1986 World Cup squad.

But if Cabrera joins the ranks of the blue and white stripes — he must leave Atletico.

Eligible

Spain allows two foreign players per club, plus one South American player who can prove Spanish descent and therefore be eligible for the Spanish national team.

Cabrera qualifies to play in Spain on this understanding — but if he elects to play for his country, he automatically becomes ineligible to compete in the Spanish League.

Madrid already have Argentine goalkeeper Fillo and Uruguay's striker Da Silva as their permitted foreign stars.

SPEEDIE GETS THE SHOOT

Shoot fixes it for the Chelsea and Scotland ace

WHEN he's not shooting goals for Chelsea, David Speedie is a real snap shot. The little Scotsman is a keen photographer and dared SHOOT to arrange a session with one of the sizzling Page Three girls.

The beautiful Erica Preston didn't take much persuading when we asked if she'd like to work out at Chelsea under David's watchful eye.

"I've often wondered what exercises footballers have to do to keep fit," says Erica. "I have to watch my figure and keep in shape so perhaps I'll pick up a few tips."

David couldn't believe it at first when told SHOOT had fixed it. "I've dreamed of the chance of photographing a top model," he said. "I'm so excited I just hope I can keep my camera steady!"

Before putting Erica in focus, David tested her strength on the weights and exercise bike.

It was then Erica's turn to put David under pressure out on the pitch, boot room and gymnasium.

"Erica was a real professional," says David. "She put me at ease and gave me some useful hints on photographing models."

But is the Chelsea and Scotland ace ready to challenge David Bailey?

"Yes," says Erica. "He's keen, good at direction... and proved he has an eye for detail!"



David needs pedal power to build up thigh muscles. But it's not recommended for Page Three girls.



BIRD



*Top: David enjoys aiming for the near post.
Above: A change of strip and backs to the wall bars.
Right: She's bootiful really bootiful*



John Wark is Britain's top scorer in Europe, led Liverpool's scoring charts last season, has won 29 Scotland caps and scored eight First Division hat-tricks. He says ...

Soccer's swiftly changing tides of fortune have been classically illustrated by John Wark's struggle to emerge from frustrating limbo at Liverpool.

A season that beckoned the 28-year-old Scot turned sour on him before a ball had been kicked in the current campaign.

And when he might have been challenging for a place in the Scotland squad that travels to Mexico for this year's World Cup Finals, Wark has been battling just to win a place in his club's first choice 12.

The midfielder who enjoyed a starring role at Ipswich before a £450,000 move to Anfield in March, 1984 underlined his marksman's instincts by topping Liverpool's scoring charts with 27 goals last season.

But Wark did not even make the warm-up games under the new managerial reign of his fellow Glaswegian, Kenny Dalglish. Shortly after his return for pre-season training in July he damaged an Achilles tendon which meant surgery ... and boundless patience.

It was not until the Milk Cup Second Round, second-leg at Oldham in October that Wark ended his long wait to sample senior football again and he

celebrated in typical style with a goal in Liverpool's 5-2 win at Boundary Park.

But his return was to last less than three games. Outings in the home win over Southampton and the pulsating away deadlock with Manchester United saw him substituted in each game by Kevin MacDonald. Since then, Wark has hardly had a look-in, although he's hoping to get his chance to shine in the absence of the injured MacDonald and Steve McMahon.

"I need a few games to get my sharpness back so I was pleased to get the chance of playing in the first team again," says Wark.

The challenge facing him has been heightened by the competition for places, with McMahon, MacDonald, Jan Molby, Ronnie Whelan, Sammy Lee, Craig Johnston and even Dalglish himself contenders for the midfield berths.

And Dalglish's readiness to switch his formation and tactics to suit the demands of a particular game throws an extra ingredient into the situation.

"Against West Ham recently I was told to sit deep but in the second-half I was able to push forward and get into it more," says Wark, whose cunning runs from midfield are his trademark.

Liverpool's F.A. Cup pairing with York for the second successive season brought back happy memories for Wark, who claimed a hat-trick in his side's 7-0 Fifth Round replay crushing of the Third Division side a year ago.

Feat

Another triple against West Brom took his season's hat-trick total to three, having also performed the feat against Lech Poznan in the European Cup the previous October.

Wark has now collected eight hat-tricks in his professional career which began with Ipswich a dozen years ago after he had been spotted playing for Drumchapel Amateurs.

During his period at Portman Road, Wark added the first of his 29 full international caps to his Youth and Under-21 recognition and enjoyed a glorious season of achievement for the East Anglian club in 1980-81.

His 36 goals in all competitions included 14 in Ipswich's successful UEFA Cup campaign — a record for a British player in Europe equalling Jose Altafini's European Cup total for AC Milan in 1963 and Lothar Emmerich's haul for Borussia Dortmund in the 1966 Cup-Winners' Cup.

As February dawned, Wark had rifled 165 goals in 460 senior outings for his two English clubs with his next target to regain his first team place in Liverpool's renewed bid for honours.

It's now or never for the Scotsman with an eye for goal.

Now for a first team spot!

CROWN
PAINTS





Steve McMahon scores
Liverpool's third goal as
Norwich get an F.A. Cup
lesson at Anfield last
month.

A KICK UP THE BACKSIDE FOR NORWICH

An F.A. Cup hiding by his former club Liverpool has convinced Dave Watson that he can lead Norwich City back into the First Division.

The Canaries, under the inspired captaincy of Watson, have cashed in on a long unbeaten run to head the promotion race with just over a third of the campaign remaining. And such was the confidence at Carrow Road that when they were paired with Liverpool in the Third Round of the F.A. Cup they travelled North to Anfield hinting that a shock was on the cards.

"Yes, we went there expecting to get something — and we did," admits Watson with a wry grin. "But I've a feeling that our 5-0 hiding could turn out to be a blessing in disguise."

'Complacent'

"After a result like that there's no way any of us can get complacent. It brought us all back down to earth with a bang."

"Now, looking back, I feel Liverpool might have done us a favour. It could be the kick up the backside we need to ensure we keep battling away and don't slip up in the League."

The 24-year-old central defender suffered the disappointment of relegation for the second time in May when The Canaries took the plunge alongside Sunderland, the team they had defeated at Wembley to collect the Milk Cup.

"We went down in 1981 and came straight back up so I'm hoping that history will repeat itself," says the former Merseyside sheet metal worker who has cost Norwich a total of £200,000 since his move in December, 1980.

Norwich made an unconvincing start to the current campaign, the new-look side assembled by manager Ken Brown losing three of their opening five games.

'Settled'

"We had five new faces in the team and it took time for us all to get to know each other. Once we settled we weren't long in climbing the table."

"The new lads have all done well. Kevin Drinkell is a natural goalscorer, David Williams has settled things down in the middle of the park and the others have also paid their way."

Norwich were fortunate in being able to maintain the backbone of their side. Watson is partnered by the immensely talented Steve Bruce, a resolute defender and regular goalscorer, rolled into one, and behind them Chris Woods has maintained the form that saw him graduate to the England squad.

"If we're doing our bit to stop goals being conceded and the likes of Kevin are scoring them at the other end, I think we'll be okay," adds Watson.

"And once we get back in the First Division I think we'll be there to stay."

POLL
WITHIN

Dave Watson is
set to lead
Norwich back to
the big time.

Owen beats injury jinx



Gary Owen is putting two years of hell behind him in a bid to keep West Bromwich Albion in the First Division.

Owen is back in Albion's first team after a series of horrific injuries which almost finished his career.

The former England Under-21 and 'B' midfield player admits: "The last couple of years have been a nightmare."

"The lads at Albion still believe the club can escape relegation. But we must start winning games soon or we're doomed."

"My natural instinct was to pull the leg back, which meant that the glass cut in both directions."

"Ten per cent of my calf muscle was severed but, fortunately, my Achilles tendon was not damaged."

"I had four operations, during which they grafted skin from my thigh to my calf, but by the end of last September, I was back in training."

Owen played a series of youth and reserve team matches before returning to League action against Newcastle on January 11.

"There is no problem with any of the injuries now, but I am still getting back to full match fitness. The strange thing is that I feel as if I have only been out for a couple of weeks — not a couple of years."

"My legs are covered in scars. One of the lads said it looked like I've just come back from the Vietnam war."

'Perspective'

"The injuries could have finished my career. But being out of action for so long gave me a different perspective on life."

"For ten years, football had been everything. Now I realise other things like health and happiness are just as important."

Owen admits that, at times during his absence from the game, he became bored and frustrated.

"But, to keep myself occupied, I built my own house. Not brick by brick, but I had it constructed to my own specifications, arranged planning permission and so on."

"I got the idea from Steve Williams, who did the same thing during his time with Southampton. Steve and I are great mates — I was the best man at his wedding."

"It is marvellous to have a home that really is my own, and an equally great thrill to be playing in the First Division again."

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Owen had an ominous preview of his problems when, during a holiday in Marbella in the summer of 1983, he contracted meningitis and spent three weeks in hospital.

But his traumas really started on January 21, 1984, when, in a collision with West Ham's Bobby Barnes, he broke his right leg in two places.

Owen still has a six-inch metal plate in his leg and was out of action for a year. He returned for the second half of last season — but, last summer, suffered an injury as gruesome as it was unlucky.

"My wife had just cleaned the ceramic tile floor in the kitchen and it was still damp. I went to close the glass door, slipped and my right leg went crashing through the glass, causing severe lacerations."

FRUSTRATION

Few First Division players were as relieved to see the back of 1985 as Manchester United's Mike Duxbury.

Only 18 months ago, the 26-year-old right-back was a



regular member of Bobby Robson's England side after enjoying a fine season at Old Trafford.

Since then, though, he has had to endure a personal nightmare which has included the loss of his international place and, most recently, a persistent hamstring injury that has ruled him out of a major chunk of United's programme this season.

Such bad luck might have proved disastrous to many other players, but Duxbury is confident that the worst is now behind him.

"It is always the same with football. If you get injured there is

nothing much you can do about it," says Duxbury philosophically.

"You can go down in the dumps, but why do that? It has been a frustrating time, but you just have to let time sort everything out and concentrate on getting back into things after that."

Duxbury was injured during the Milk Cup tie with West Ham at Old Trafford at the beginning of November, and has had to be wary of making his comeback too early.

There must have been a strong temptation for Duxbury to speed up the process of recovery, such is the competition for places at



John Gidman has recovered from injury problems and is now keeping Duxbury out of the United side.

Old Trafford at the moment.

John Gidman has been turning in some impressive performances in the number two jersey, and the arrival of Johnny Sivabaek has further increased competition for the right-back spot.

Manager Ron Atkinson is, however, quick to stress that the popular Duxbury is still very much a part of his plans as he seeks to guide United to their first League title for 19 years.

'Versatile'

"Prior to his injury, Mick was back to his best form," says Atkinson. "He's a very versatile player, and they are always worth their weight in gold."

Duxbury remains determined to concentrate on the right-back position in future — however long it might take to re-establish

himself.

"I'd like to settle down there now," he admits. "At the moment, I would prefer that to playing in the centre of defence."

Despite his present uncertainty, though, Duxbury refuses to concede that a place in England's squad for Mexico is out of the question.

"My attitude is that it is never too late. There is still time to be noticed, but there is not much that you can do except go out and play your best and then leave it to the people who are in charge."

LAUGH LINE



"Three down with four minutes to go. Can you save it?"



KEEGAN'S BACK

BUT ONLY FOR THE KIDS

FORMER England captain Kevin Keegan has vowed never to play full-time soccer again.

But 34-year-old Kev, who lives in Marbella, Spain with his wife Jean and two young daughters, did agree to make a "comeback" at QPR recently.

Kevin explains: "I signed a contract with Thames TV to cover the World Cup Finals. But I didn't want to be just 'an expert' on their panels.

"I told Thames I wanted to get involved in other things ... like organising coaching schools for youngsters, but with the emphasis on playing for fun rather than professional commitment.

"I wanted to coach kids with all



levels of skill, not just those already playing for a club or school."

Thames Sport ran a competition and the 20 winners spent a weekend with Kevin at Queens Park Rangers.

Joining Kev on some of the sessions was his former Liverpool and England team-mate Ray Clemence.

Sadly we may never see Kevin in action again. But for one weekend at least he was King of the Kids.

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BACK ROW (left to right): Andy Flounders, Gary Swann, Andy Saville, Paul Olsson, Lawrie Pearson, Andy Tomlinson.

MIDDLE ROW: Dennis Booth (coach), Stan McEwan, Peter Skipper, John Davies, Billy Whitehurst (now Newcastle), Tony Norman, Richard Jobson, Frank Bunn, Jeff Radcliffe (physio).

FRONT ROW: Neil Williams, Steve Corkane, Gareth Roberts, Brian Horton (manager), Billy Askew, Steve Brentano, Michael Ring.



SPOTLIGHT ON-

Hull City

In spite of the loss of leading scorer Billy Whitehurst, Hull City approach the run-in to the season handily placed to pinch the third promotion spot from Division Two.

When Whitehurst left for Newcastle for £240,000 in December, Hull were 14th in the table. Yet without signing a replacement striker, the club have since moved into the top six.

Player-manager Brian Horton took the club to promotion in his first season in charge last year and is set to do it again.

Even the disappointment of going out of both Cup competitions at the early stages

has not deterred the enthusiasm of the fans at Boothferry Park.

Leading scorer Frank Bunn, signed from Luton last summer, has settled in well and if he can continue to find the back of the net there is no doubt that City could be surprise contenders for the First Division for the first time in their history.

"There is no point beating about the bush," says Horton. "The chairman, players and supporters all want to see this club in the First Division. I think we can do it."

"We may not be as glamorous as some of our opponents, but we have an honest team who are well prepared for the scrap coming up."

**All the way
to Mexico...**

Shoot's World Cup Countdown starts next week

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fear playing
in Mexico.**

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fighting for
his N. Ireland
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BEAT THE CLOCK ANSWERS

COUSINS: Paul Allen (Spurs), Clive Allen (Spurs) and Martyn Allen (QPR). X-WORD: 1. Clemence. 2. Graham Rix. 3. Des Bremner. 4. Mark Falco. 5. Chisholm. 6. Southall. 7. Ferguson. 8. Nick Holmes. 9. Steve Nicol. 10. Marshall. 11. Mark Hughes. Jumbled name: Kevin Moran. WHO AM I? Norwich City's Mark Barham.

RANGERS SUNK: Colin McAdam. SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: 1. Floodlight bulb missing. 2. Arrow smaller. 3. Attendant's pencil missing. 4. Aerial smaller. 5. Lock on car missing. 6. Driver's watch missing. 7. Tax missing. 8. Wheel nuts missing. 9. Mirror different. 10. Grill by number plate missing.



EASY

One-way traffic

This year's Quarter-Final line-up could be the strongest in Scottish Cup history ... if everything goes according to plan.

Not even by applying a seeding system could the powers that be have conjured up such a David and Goliath Fourth Round draw.

So it's little against large virtually all the way and any prospective giant-killers have their work cut out to come up with a Cup shock.

Shoot! turns the spotlight on three of the most intriguing ties...

**Celtic v
Queens Park**

**BURNS
FIRES
WARNING**

Holders Celtic won't be fooled into believing a home clash against Second Division opposition guarantees them a passport to the next stage of the competition.

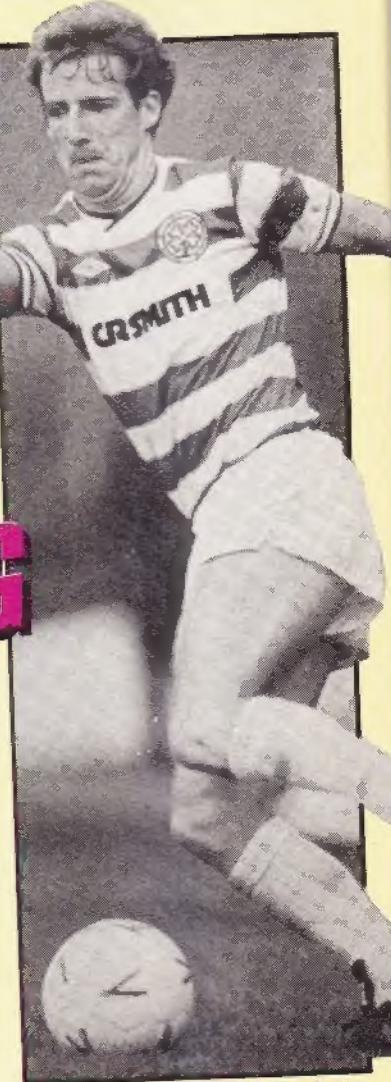
The warning comes from none other than Parkhead stalwart Tommy Burns (right). "I wasn't all that surprised when Queen's Park beat Dumbarton in the Third Round," he says.

'Best'

"They're quite a useful side. Coach Eddie Hunter gets the very best out of his players."

"They'll come to Parkhead full of enthusiasm and endeavour and we'll have to match them for effort all the way."

Goals by Peter Grant and Mo Johnston gave Celtic a 2-0 home win over St. Johnstone in the Third Round. But Tommy points out: "They came and had a go."



After all, they had nothing to lose.

"Queen's Park will be just the same. There's no pressure on them because no one really expects them to win."

"The Fourth Round draw has a one-sided look to it but there will probably be a shock result somewhere."

"There's no way I want it to be at Parkhead!"

STREET

on the road to Hampden

Hibernian v Ayr United

ALLY'S AWAYDAY FEAR

Former Hibs favourite Ally MacLeod takes his Ayr United side to Easter Road with two major regrets.

"First of all," laments the former Scotland boss, "I haven't really been back at Ayr long enough to get the team into proper shape for a match of such importance."

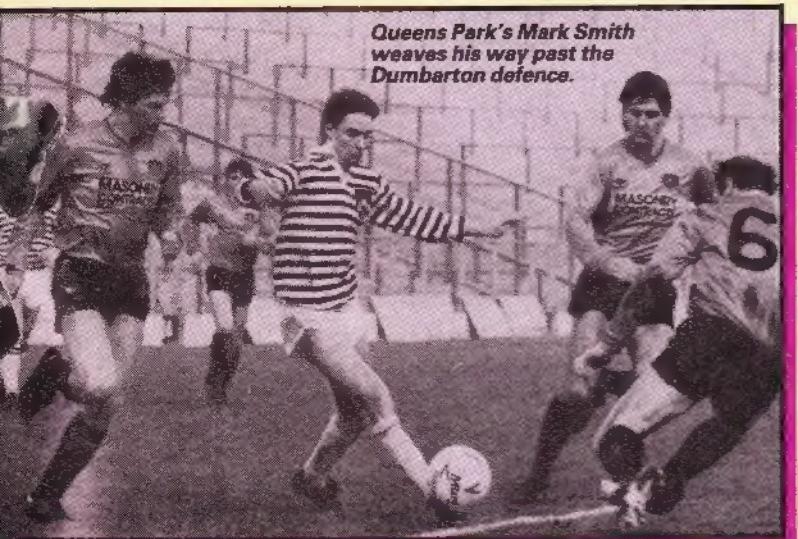
"And secondly, in all my years as a manager I reckon Easter Road has been an unlucky venue for me. It's never been the happiest of hunting grounds."

MacLeod (right) returned to Ayr with his sights set no higher than preserving First Division status and adds: "We're making progress."

"At the beginning we were losing 3-0 and 4-0 but now we've had a reasonable run and I'm hopeful we'll be able to pull clear. It would be stupid of me to



Queens Park's Mark Smith weaves his way past the Dumbarton defence.



make any rash forecasts about the Hibs match. As far as we're concerned the Cup represents a welcome breather from our struggle to avoid relegation and we can't kid ourselves otherwise.

"But anything can happen in Cup football. We have tightened up defensively and I'd like to think we can make it tough for Hibs."

"We've put a useful unbeaten run together since the start of the year and confidence is much better."

"If this game was taking place later in the season I'd be a lot more confident. But I'll try to motivate the lads and I'm sure they'll be good value for money."

Dundee United v Kilmarnock

Can a First Division side succeed where all the Premier clubs have failed this season?

The fact that high-flying Dundee United are unbeaten at home this season and boast the best defensive record in the Top Ten puts in perspective the awesome task facing Kilmarnock.

United striker Paul Sturrock (right) admits: "When the draw was made, our only concern was



KILLIE'S MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

to land a home tie.

"We're enjoying a great run at the moment and this has to be a good draw for us."

Having landed the Championship and League Cup in recent seasons, Sturrock and his mates are desperate to bring the Scottish Cup back to Tannadice for the first time.

"I'm one of several players at the club determined to complete a hat-trick of medals," adds the Scotland star. "And there's a strong feeling that this could be

our year.

"We're handily placed in the title race and our back four, together with goalkeeper Billy Thomson, deserve the lion's share of the credit. They've been in superb form."

"Once the midfield players and strikers are on song we'll take some stopping. We have our sights set on a Cup Final appearance at Hampden and with due respect to Kilmarnock we don't intend to let them get in our way."

Full name: Antony Richard Cottee.

Birthplace and date: West Ham on July 11, 1965.

Height and weight: 5ft 7ins. 11st 5lbs.

Married: No, but I'm engaged to Lorraine.

Home: A one bed roomed flat in Hornchurch, Essex.

Car: Ford Escort 1.6i Cabriolet.

Nickname: When I was playing for the youth team they used to call me Poacher, but now it's just TC.

Focus On

Tony Cottee

WEST HAM

'Pop' Robson was Tony's soccer hero.



Previous clubs: None.

Team you supported as a boy: West Ham.

Football hero of childhood: Bryan Pop Robson, the former West Ham striker.

Favourite current player: Manchester United's Bryan Robson.

Most memorable match: My debut against Spurs in January, 1983 when I scored the first goal in our 3-0 win.

Biggest disappointment: Losing at Manchester United in this season's Milk Cup.



Superstitions: I always try to be sixth player out both before the game and after half-time.

International honours: Four England Youth caps and seven Under-21 caps.

Club honours: Only a London Standard five-a-side winners' medal so far!

Favourite other sports: I like them all, particularly golf and snooker.

Soul star
George
Benson.

Tony does his best to escape the attention of Arsenal's Viv Anderson.

Favourite other sports star: Ian Botham, a brilliant all-rounder.

Hobbies: Listening to soul music and having a lie in on my day off.

Favourite actors: Clint Eastwood and Eddie Murphy.

Favourite TV shows: Only Fools & Horses, Minder, The Sweeney.

Favourite musicians: George Benson, Kool & The Gang.

Biggest influence on career: My dad, who helped me a great deal when I was younger and is still helping me today.

Ambitions for 1986: To help West Ham to win something and maybe score more goals than Frank Mac!

Long-term ambitions: To play for England and to score more than 200 League goals.

Tony Cottee